



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

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DLNR CLOSES PINE FOREST DRIVE ROAD FOR CLEANUP AFTER WILDFIRE

LIHU'E, KAUA'I – The Department of Land and Natural Resources will keep closed Pine Forest Drive Road in the Puu Ka Pele Forest Reserve until further notice, for public safety, while DLNR Forestry crews remove burned hazard trees and branches within a 20-acre area that was burned in a wildfire that started on Saturday, July 4, 2009, along Pine Forest Drive, Makaha Ridge. The wildfire is suspected to have been caused by illegal fireworks use.

The fire burned a total of 20 acres of pine and trees as well as molasses grass. As of Wednesday, the fire was contained and DLNR Forestry crews were mopping up hot spots that were continuing to burn underground from the numerous dead stumps and tree roots.

DLNR forestry crews will remove the dead and dying pine trees and branches within the burned area and that could fall along the roadside. They will also carry out rehabilitation work to prevent soil erosion and encroaching invasive species and replanting of native understory plants and ground cover within the burned area.

DLNR reminds the public that due to the dry conditions this summer in the forests of West Kaua'i, to please be extra careful to prevent fire spread and make sure that cigarette butts are disposed in proper ash trays, and not on the ground.

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